



## CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO WITHDRAW RESOLUTION REQUESTS CONCERNING PROCUREMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JANUARY 9, 2008

When Salem City Council meets on January 12<sup>th</sup> members Lisa Garst and Bill Jones will withdraw their requests to have their fellow council members consider whether or not they can do business within the city limits. The requests are being withdrawn in an effort to provide additional information to residents.

“The reason these items were put on the agenda was because they had done their homework and earned the right to have this issue considered,” says Salem Mayor Randy Foley. “Anything that has the potential to benefit the citizens either by quality or costs needs to be considered, and that’s why it was put on the agenda.”

Council was scheduled to vote on two separate resolutions at this coming Monday night’s meeting that could have cleared the way for both individuals to bid on city contracts on behalf of their respective businesses. Garst owns Sterling Engineering Solutions along with her husband, Reid, while Jones and his wife, Maryann, own Fast Signs through their corporation, J&A Incorporated.

“Most of the people who have approached me in the community have been very supportive,” says Garst. “We wanted to be open, out-front, proactive and as transparent as possible with this process, and this decision is just an extension of that.”

Salem city attorney Steve Yost and the city’s Commonwealth’s Attorney Tom Bowers determined that Garst and Jones were in compliance with the state’s Conflict of Interest Act, and that should council okay the separate resolutions the two would then be free to bid on sealed-bid contracts to sell their respective products to the city.

“I’ve heard more pros and cons about this, but until the citizens have all of their questions answered I think it’s in the best interest to withdraw the request at this time,” says Jones. “I’ve done everything right as far as following procedures since I was elected and the last thing I want to do is divide the people of Salem.”

Resolutions 1132 and 1133 pertained only to the sale of goods by each entity and not services, an area that is prohibited by state law.

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